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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of Mallart et al

Serial No.: 09/053,448

Filed: 10-Apr-1998

Title: GROUP-WISE VIDEO CONFERENCING USES 3D-GRAPHICS MODEL
OF BROADCAST EVENT

Atty. Docket No.: PHA 23,383

Group Art Unit: 2611

Examiner: Vu, Ngoc K

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450Amendment/Reply to Office Action

Sir:

In response to the non-final Office action of 12 May 2003, please reconsider the application in light of the following remarks.

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Harrison (USP 5,694,163). The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In independent claim 1, the Applicants specifically claim a method of controlling communications among a plurality of users that includes enabling *switching between* a broadcasting mode and a conference mode. In independent claim 7, the Applicants specifically claim a system with clients that are enabled to *switch between* making broadcasted content information available to a user and enabling the user to enter a conference.

Harrison teaches a system that *concurrently* transmits both broadcast information and conference (chat) information. Harrison specifically identifies the advantages of providing *both* broadcast and chat information at column 3, lines 12-34. A user can choose not to view the chat information, but cannot *switch between* receiving the broadcast information and receiving the chat information. That is, the user can receive either the broadcast and chat information, or the broadcast-only information. The user cannot receive chat-only information.